



Alaskan Arctic: Improving Awareness & Broadening Partnerships



Mr. James Robinson
Seventeenth Coast Guard District





USCG Arctic Strategy (2013)

- **CG Vision for Operating In Arctic Region:**
 - **Ensure safe, secure, and environmentally responsible maritime activity in the Arctic.**
- **CG Arctic Strategic Objectives:**
 - **Improve Awareness**
 - **Modernize Governance**
 - **Broaden Partnerships**
- **CG Goals:**
 - **Protect Those On The Sea**
 - **Protect People From The Sea**
 - **Protect The Sea Itself**





USCG Arctic Strategy (2013)



- **Improve Awareness:**
 - **Coordinate/Share Information**
 - **Achieve Effective CG Presence (Vessels/Aircraft/Personnel)**
- **Modernize Governance:**
 - **Work w/ Federal, State, Tribal, & Local Gov'ts**
 - **Safeguard Marine Environment**
 - **Preserve Living Marine Resources**
- **Broaden Partnerships:**
 - **Develop/Promote CG as a Partner**
 - **Engage/Partner to Maximize Effectiveness**





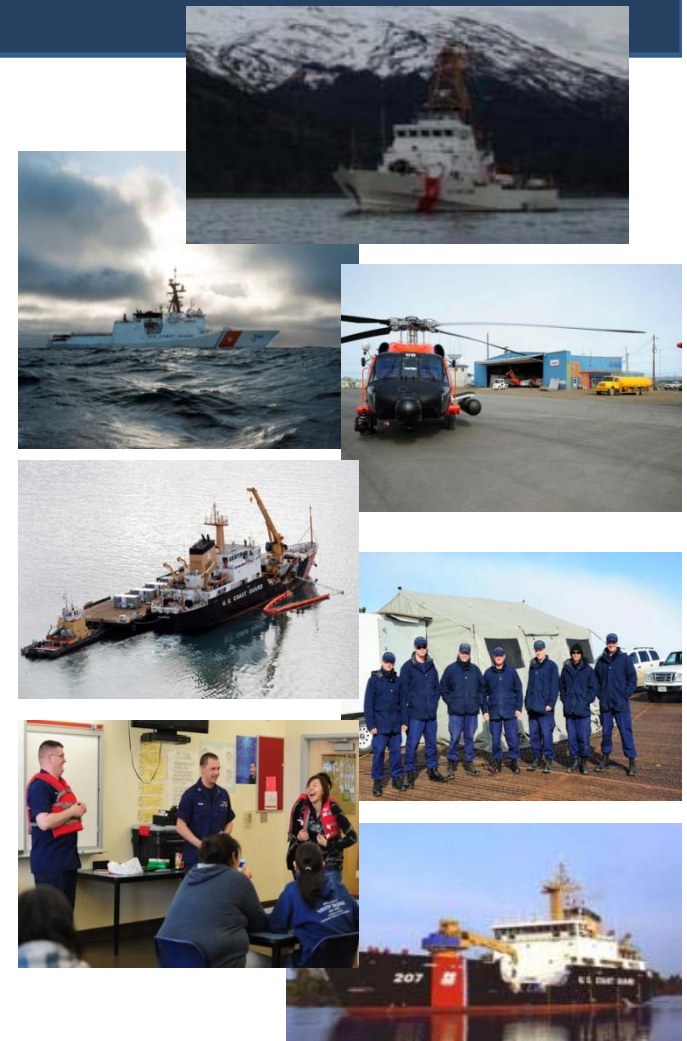
Overview of CG Structure in Alaska

“Who Does What?”



Overview of CG Organizational Structure in Alaska:

- **17th District Commander: Juneau**
 - Approx 2000 CG Personnel Statewide
 - D17 Staff: Manage Policy & Programs
- **Sector Anchorage & Sector Juneau**
 - Manage CG operations in their regions
 - **Arctic: Sector Anchorage Region**
 - Federal On-Scene Coordinators for Oil Spills & Hazardous Materials Releases
- **D17 Units: 24 field units in Alaska**
 - Marine Safety Units/Detachments (6)
 - Buoy Tenders (6) & Patrol Boats (6)
 - Small Boat Stations (3)
- **CG Air Stations: Kodiak and Sitka**
 - 18 Aircraft : 13 Helicopters/5 C-130 Airplanes
- **Other CG Assets in Alaska**
 - USCGC HEALY (Icebreaker)
 - National Security Cutters





U. S. Coast Guard Planning, Prevention, & Response

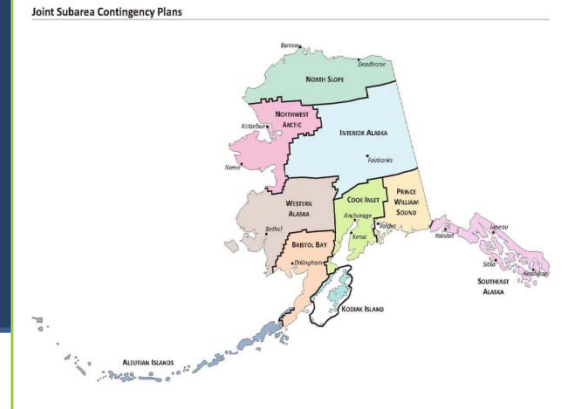


- Air Operations
- Vessel Operations
- Prevention:
 - Safety Education Programs
 - Spill/Contingency Plans
- Response:
 - Spills/Cleanup Ops
 - Law Enforcement

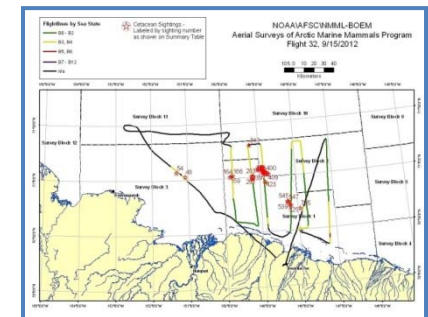


USCG Operations/Response:

Before, During, & After – “How & When We Engage”



- **CG Operations – Planning & Preparedness “BEFORE”**
 - Community/Tribal/ANO/Stakeholder Meetings
 - CG Field Operations: CG Vessels & Aircraft
 - Subarea Committees & Contingency Plans
 - Spill Response & Mass Rescue Drills & Exercises
 - Subsistence Co-Mgmt Engagement/Species Tracking
 - Tribal Relations Training for CG Personnel
- **Incident Response & Recovery “DURING & AFTER”**
 - Tribal & Local Government Input
 - Sensitive Area Information is a Key Issue





Tribal/State/Local Government & Other Stakeholder Input



Arctic Community Concerns – Food & Cultural Security:

- Vessel Traffic Issues
- Infrastructure Development
- Subsistence Hunter Safety
- Food Quality & Availability
- Need More Spill Planning/Response
- “Vessels are operating in our pantry”

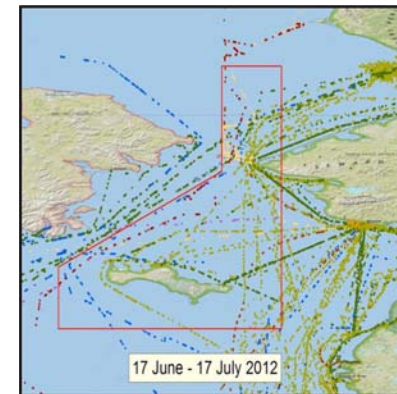




Regulatory & Non-Regulatory Solutions



- **Initiatives to Address Issues:**
 - Polar Code
 - Port Access Route Study (PARS)
 - Arctic Waterway Safety Committee
 - Seasonal CG Arctic Operations
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)



Chukchi Whalers

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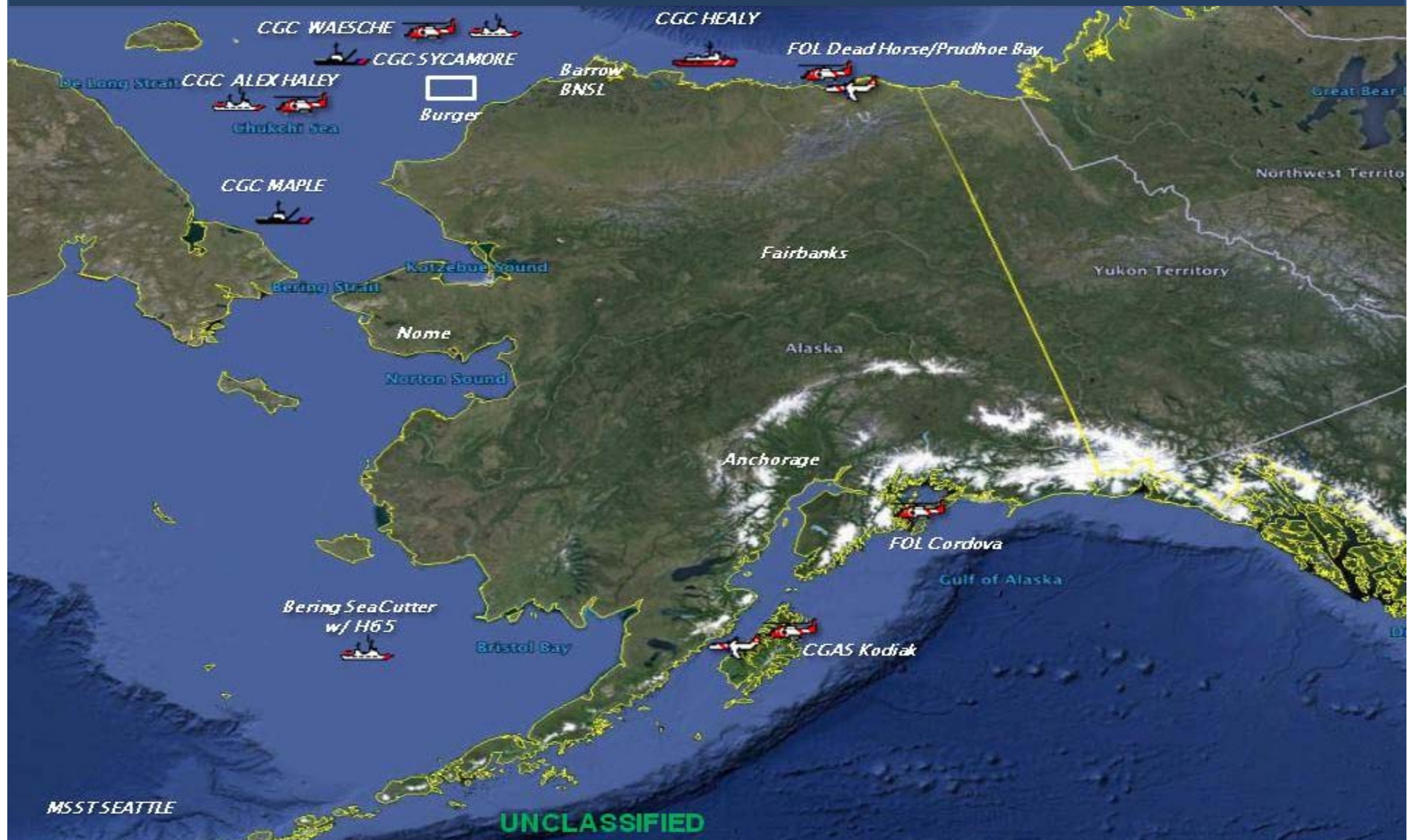
IMO Polar Code Overview

- **Two Parts – Safety & Environment**
- **Key Topics:**
 - Hull strength/increased stability (if ops in ice areas)
 - Protection for exposed safety equipment (ops in ice & low temps)
 - Operational Risk Assessment
 - Voyage/Contingency Planning
 - Crew training (ice navigation)
 - Environmental Impact
- Mandatory and non-mandatory sections
- **Becomes Effective in January 2017**
- Phase 2 (broader applicability) scheduled start in 2016





Arctic Shield 2015 Force Laydown





Arctic Waterway Safety Committee



- Subcommittees:
 - Subsistence – Review & Update Coast Pilot regarding Subsistence Areas/Times, Subsistence Area Annotation on Charts, and Ways to Protect Hunters in Vessel Traffic Areas.
 - Science – Standards of Care for Marine Research: Protocols for Communicating with Local Communities, Avoiding Conflicts with Subsistence Activities
 - Tug & Barge – Standards of Care for Lightering & Cargo
- AWSC Goals:
 - Development of Waterway Safety Plan by End of 2016
 - Expand Engagement of Maritime Community, Public



Oil Spill Response & Preparedness: “How Spill Response Happens”



Coast Guard Notification

- **Activates Unified Command**
 - Federal
 - State of Alaska (ADEC)
 - Responsible Party
 - Local
- **Responsible Party Responds**
 - Oil Spill Response Organization (OSRO)
- **Federal Assets**
 - U.S. Coast Guard Owned
 - DoD Owned

26 CG “Backup” Caches

19 Locations &
46 Containers:

- Anchorage: 6 Containers for Statewide Use



Looking Ahead in Arctic Issues



- Continued CG Engagement:
 - Federally Recognized Tribes
 - Subsistence Co-Management Groups
 - State/Local Governments
 - Maritime Industry
- Implementation of Polar Code
- PARS Finalization & Implementation
- Support AWSC Initiatives
- Increased Emphasis on Contingency Plans
- Continued Seasonal CG Operations
- **Partnering with Communities & Stakeholders**



Questions/Discussion?



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